## Congress of the United States **House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

## April 17, 2013

The Hon. Robert Aderholt Chairman Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies House Appropriations Committee 2362-A Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Hal Rogers Chairman House Appropriations Committee H-307 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Hon. Sam Farr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Nita Lowey Ranking Member House Appropriations Committee 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member Farr,

We are writing to request full funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2014 in order to ensure that this critical agency has the funding it needs to finalize key rulemakings, defend its current rulemakings, and prevent abusive speculation in oil markets. Congress granted the CFTC new authority to oversee speculation and profiteering in oil futures trading through enactment of the Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act). While the Obama Administration has not yet released its funding request for FY2014, we anticipate that it will be near the \$308 million that was requested in the President's budget for FY 2013. Fully funding this agency at least at the requested level of \$308 million for FY2014 is essential to ensuring that the CFTC can implement the authorities provided under Dodd-Frank and ensure that American consumers and the economy are protected from speculators who might seek to drive up oil prices.

implemented. Indeed, two Wall Street industry associations representing firms such as Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan and Morgan Stanley, successfully sued the CFTC to prevent the position limits rule, which would set limits on how much traders can buy to prevent one firm from cornering the market, from going into effect. The rule was designed to prevent hedge funds and other speculators from owning huge pieces of the energy futures market and having the ability to drive price swings. As a result of the litigation, that rule is now on hold for the near-term, and Wall Street is continuing to aggressively pursue litigation against the CFTC in an effort to judicially overturn other important provisions of Dodd-Frank designed to protect American consumers and our economy from excessive speculation in energy markets.

We must ensure that the CFTC has the resources it needs to swiftly and effectively implement and defend these regulations that are critical to protecting American consumers from higher prices. We are therefore writing to request that the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for FY2014 fully funds the CFTC at the President's requested level, but no less than the \$308 million requested for FY2013.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely.

EDWARD J. MARKEY

Member of Congress

GEORGE MILLER

Member of Congress

JOE COURTNEY

Member of Congress

PETER WELCH

Member of Congress

HENRY A WAXMAN

Member of Congress

**GENE GREEN** 

Member of Congress

MAXINE WATERS

Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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